

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
Jan. 6, 2020

Members Present: Douglas Baker, Mayor  
Donna Fletcher, Deputy Mayor (via Face Time)  
James Johnson  
Samuel Lyons  
Fred Mays  
Ryan Rudegeair

In Attendance: Tracy Jamieson, City Manager  
Brian Spaid, Esq., City Solicitor  
Jim Wetzel, Fire Chief  
Harmony Motter, Finance Director  
Kevin Anundson, Police Chief  
Deb Eckelberger, Franklin Development Director  
Sheila Boughner, Recording Secretary & Community Development Coordinator  
Sarah Titley, Venango Newspapers, Inc.  
William Moon Jr., 303 Mayer St., Oil City  
Jake Smith, 1346 Elk St., Franklin  
Hope Rembold, 257 Stone Road, Franklin

Mayor Baker called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**OATHS OF OFFICE**

Mr. Spaid administered the oaths of office to Mr. Mays, Mr. Rudegeair and Ms. Fletcher, all of whom were reelected to their council seats in November.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA - Resolution No. 1**

Mr. Rudegeair moved to approve the agenda, as presented. Mr. Lyons seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Resolution No. 2**

Mr. Johnson moved to approve the minutes of the Dec. 2, 2019 public hearing on the City's FY-2020 Budget and the regular meeting of Dec. 2, 2019. Mr. Rudegeair seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**PAY THE BILLS - Resolution No. 3**

Mr. Lyons moved to pay the bills as presented. Mr. Mays seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**CITIZENS' INQUIRIES**

None

#### **ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR – Resolution No. 4**

Mayor Baker indicated that Ms. Fletcher has been serving in the role of deputy mayor for the past several years and moved to reappoint her to that position. Mr. Lyons seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

#### **CERTIFICATES OF APPROPRIATENESS -- Resolution No. 5**

Mr. Johnson moved and Mr. Rudegeair seconded a motion to issue a Certificate of Appropriateness for a sign at 1318 Liberty Street, as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **HISTORIC BUILDING PRESERVATION GRANT REQUEST – Resolution No. 6**

Ms. Jamieson presented a request from the Historic Franklin Preservation Association for a \$5,000 grant from the City's Historic Building Preservation Program to assist with the exterior restoration of the Old Lutheran Church building, located at 1101 Buffalo Street. The building is owned by the Preservation Association. Ms. Jamieson said the application meets all the grant requirements and recommended that Council agree to the request. Mr. Rudegeair moved, and Mr. Lyons seconded the motion to award a \$5,000 Historic Building Preservation Program grant for the project. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **TRAFFIC CALMING DISCUSSION**

Mr. Rudegeair -- who had indicated at the December 2019 that he would like to return to the topic of traffic calming in January's Council meeting -- expressed surprise that nobody from the public was in attendance to address council on the matter. He said he had heard from people who said they wanted to address the Council about possibly adding stop signs at the intersection of 14<sup>th</sup> and Elk streets.

Mr. Baker said he believes the panel needs to do some more homework before adopting a course of action. He said he has started writing a policy on how Council will respond to such requests. The goal, he said, is not to add a bunch of stop signs, but to make neighborhoods more livable.

Mr. Johnson described the possible addition of stop signs as "a mixed bag," with some in favor and some against. Mr. Mays indicated that stop signs work only if someone is there to enforce them and that otherwise, drivers run through them.

Ms. Jamieson advised that the City police department could start setting up enforcement operations in some of the problem areas. Ms. Fletcher noted that in the 1970s, when people were speeding on Elk Street, the police would issue some tickets and the traffic seemed to slow down.

#### **PARADE AND PARK REQUESTS – Resolution No. 7**

Mr. Lyons moved and Mr. Mays seconded a motion to approve the following request:

- Feb. 8, 2020 • Fountain Park • Franklin On Ice • City of Franklin/Franklin Fine Arts Council

## **REPORTS**

### **Manager**

- **Resolution No. 8** -- Explained that while the City had intended to use Community Development Block Grant funds from both FY-2016 and FY-2018 to pay for the recent demolitions of 327 Pacific Street and 207 Liberty Street, the FY-2018 funds could not be used for that purpose as the environmental reviews for both properties were conducted in conjunction with FY-2016. The City then received permission from DCED to move \$7,100.11 from the FY-2016 administration line item into clearance & demolition to complete the funding for the project, and Ms. Jamieson asked Council to ratify that budget transfer. Mr. Rudegeair so moved, and Mr. Johnson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
- Noted that Ms. Fletcher had previously asked about the possibility of reducing the amount of time pedestrians are given to cross at mid-block in the 1200 block of Liberty Street. Ms. Jamieson indicated four seconds were shaved off that time, which is now at the minimum duration allowed.
- Reported that regular leaf collections by the Street Department are complete, but those with bagged leaves may still call the department for a leaf pick-up. Noted that the street department is now running a second shift for winter maintenance.
- Reminded those in attendance of PennDOT's Jan. 7, 2020, open house to present various options to improve the intersection at 12<sup>th</sup> and Liberty streets. She urged those who attend to ask questions and keep an open mind as this could be the last chance for many years to make significant improvements to that intersection.
- Advised the Council that the City is requesting proposals for the provision of janitorial services at the Professional Building. Indicated she should have further information on that at the February meeting.
- Indicated she would need time in executive session to discuss negotiations.

### **Solicitor**

- **Resolution No. 9** – Presented Council with copies of the Resolution and the Certificate as to Collections and Expenditures for a Tax and Revenue Anticipation Note, Series 2020, from First United National Bank in the amount of \$450,000 at 1.5% interest. Mr. Rudegeair moved and Mr. Johnson seconded a motion approving the resolution, which passed unanimously.
- **Resolution No. 10** -- Advised the Council that five different letters of interest for the vacant Council seat were received from: Emily Aubele, Timothy Daniels, Jerry Hanna, Brad Lena, and Christian Marshall. Indicated that Council may interview the applicants if it chooses but advised that Council make a selection at its Feb. 3 meeting, as the deadline for filling the seat is Feb. 15. Mayor Baker said he would like to give the applicants an opportunity to speak with Council, and the panel agreed to hold a special meeting for that purpose prior to the February meeting. Council members agreed to come up with a series of questions for the applicants. Mr. Johnson moved to hold a special meeting at 6 p.m. Monday, Feb. 3, to interview applicants. Mr. Rudegeair seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

### **Mayor – Appointments**

- **Resolution No. 11** -- Mayor Baker moved to reappoint Matthew Beith, Beverly Hart and Dale Wilson to the Historic & Architectural Review Board. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

### **COUNCIL REPORTS**

#### **Mr. Johnson**

- Mentioned that the new Emmaus Haven homeless shelter on Colbert Avenue in Oil City should be opening soon.

#### **Mr. Rudegeair**

- Indicated that he is pulling together information from the Pennsylvania Municipal League on the employee review process and hopes to share that in February.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION – Resolution No. 12**

Mr. Johnson moved to enter into executive session at 7:30 p.m. to discuss negotiations. Mr. Lyons seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously. The Executive Session ended at 7:48 p.m.

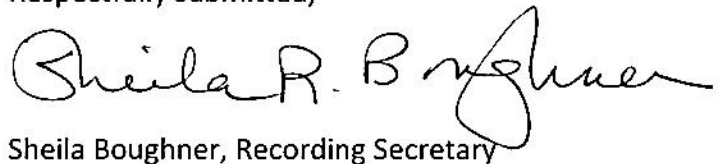
### **OTHER BUSINESS – Resolution No. 13**

A motion was made by Mr. Rudegeair and seconded by Mr. Johnson to approve a new agreement with IBEW for the period 2020-2023. The motion was unanimously approved.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Sheila R. Boughner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sheila" being the most prominent.

Sheila Boughner, Recording Secretary